

Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Ruth Alexander and I am a concerned citizen from Bloomfield, CT.

I am writing you to ask for your support of **Raised Senate Bill 354**, a bill that will create a music therapy license in Connecticut . This bill is important because it will allow Connecticut citizens to more easily access music therapy services, and it will protect the public by ensuring that these services are provided by trained and qualified practitioners.

Please note that my support of licensure for music therapy is dependent on some language changes which have been submitted as written testimony by Jennifer Sokira on behalf of the CT Task Force. These changes ensure that the license is reflective of current board certification requirements in music therapy and is not limiting to the practices of Board Certified Music Therapists currently in CT.

I am especially eager for passage of this bill because I personally witnessed the benefits of music therapy. While caring for my late husband who had Alzheimer's, an engaging and gifted music therapist came to our home and brought joy and excitement to my husband's life. Seeing my husband so involved and happy was not only a gift to him, but to me, who welcomed the support during a difficult time in our lives. This was a treasured time and a memory I continue to savor.

Beyond the emotional benefit of the music therapy sessions, the financial impact can be a decisive factor in the decision to include music therapy in a person's care plan.. Therefore I hope that the services of licensed music therapist for clients of all ages will be added to insurance benefits for professional services.

For these reasons, I ask that you please vote "yes" on **Raised Senate Bill 354!**

Sincerely,
Ruth Alexander